(a) were exempted from meeting the requirement of 10% norm prescribed for the North East (and Sikkim).

(b) & (c) Recently, a review of exempted Departments was undertaken and now it has been decided to exempt only eight Departments—namely, the Departments of Economic Affairs (incl. Banking), Expenditure, Revenue, Planning Space, Supply, Atomic Energy and Ocean Development.

Employment Generation

†2428. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has not been any remarkable increase in the employment generation during the last five years of Economic Reforms; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the employment generation during the period from 1985 to 1990 and 1990 to 1999, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Quinquennial Surveys on Employment and Unemployment conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) provide comprehensive information on employment and Unemployment situation in the country. The last three such Surveys were conducted by the NSSO in 1983, 1987-88 and 1993-94. As per these Surveys of NSSO, the rate of growth of employment, on Usual Status basis, during the period 1987-88 to 1993-94 was 2.43 and per annum compared to 1:58% per annum during 1983 to 1987- 88.

Central Assistance to the States under Minimum Needs Programme

2429. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the Central assistance granted under the Minimum Needs Programme